

# BEATRICE FIRE & RESCUE



Annual Report  
2002

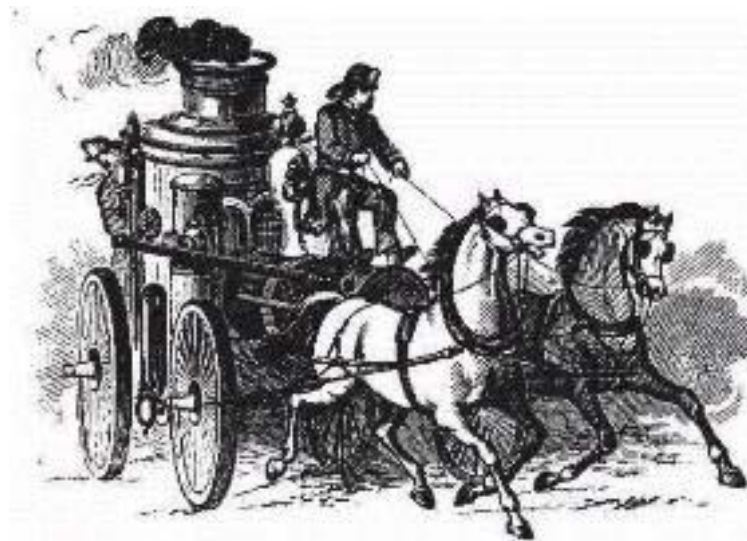
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# Mission Statement

***The Beatrice Fire Department's mission is to provide the highest level of emergency and non-emergency public safety services through the extension of fire prevention, fire control, rescue, emergency medical services and public fire education, and to protect life and property in an efficient and cost effective manner for the Community of Beatrice.***



# Department Goals

## **To:**

**Prevent the loss of life and injury; from fire-related hazards, accidents, and natural disasters.**

## **To:**

**Prevent loss of property from fire and fire related activities.**

## **To:**

**Provide injury prevention education aimed at managing risk areas in our community...create safer homes, promote positive health choices and address traffic injuries, falls, firearm injuries, poisoning, and burns.**

## **To:**

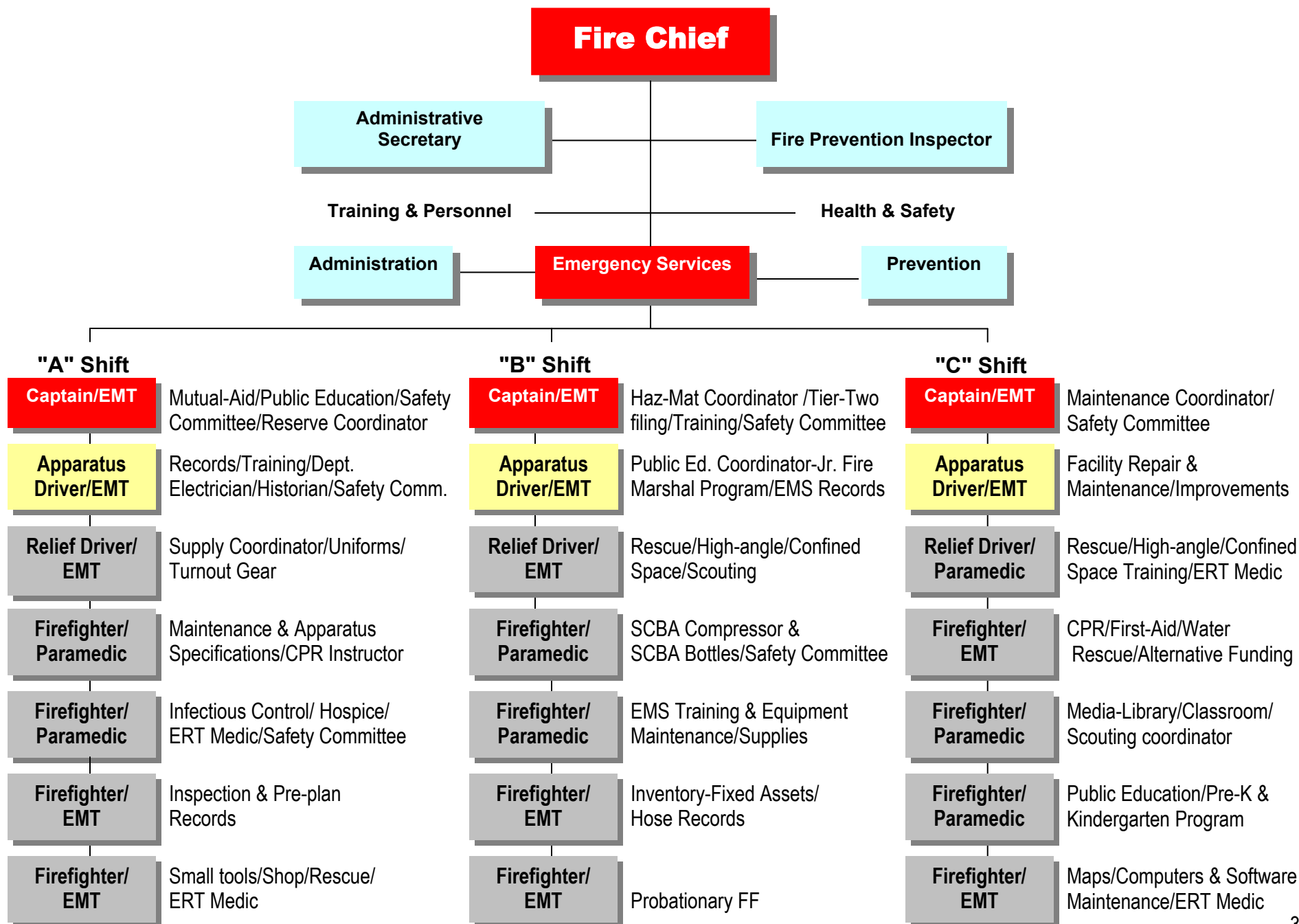
**Prevent the loss of life and reduce injury through prompt professional delivery of emergency rescue and medical services.**

## **To:**

**Increase public safety awareness among citizens through the delivery of public fire and safety education programs and public service announcements through the media.**

## **To:**

**Continue to emphasize youth-directed public fire education programs in and out of our schools.**





Chief Terry Burger



"A" Shift



Inspector John Carrel



"B" Shift



Secretary Shirley Parde



"C" Shift



## Personnel Changes in 2002

Arlen Nies retired in October 2002 after 26 years and 9 months of full-time employment with the Fire Department. At the time of his retirement, Arlen was a senior apparatus driver/pump operator on "B" Shift.

We will miss Arlen's quick wit and caring attitude, as well as his 26 years of knowledge and experience. We wish him well in his retirement years.



Nathan Koch was hired in December 2002 to fill the vacancy left by Arlen's retirement. Nathan is a Southeast Community College graduate with an Associates' Degree in Fire Protection Technology and is a certified Emergency Medical Technician. He is a Beatrice native and was a reserve firefighter with our department since 1998. At the time of his appointment, Nathan was employed as a firefighter with the Salina, KS Fire Department.

## Continuing Education Classes:

- In September, we had four firefighters attend a two-week Hazardous Materials Technicians-level training course in Grand Island, NE. The training was conducted by National instructors from Texas A&M University.
- Many of our Paramedics attended "Advanced Life Support" training classes during the year.
- Two firefighters attended the annual Nebraska Fire School in Grand Island in May.

# Station and Equipment Improvements

We received our new Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle this year and are customizing it to accommodate our current Haz-Mat equipment as well as new equipment that will be purchased during the coming year, which was made possible by a “Department of Justice” Grant.



We added two more pieces of apparatus to our vehicle exhaust system in 2002. We now have all of our front line apparatus along with our back-up engine and ladder truck connected to the system. This has greatly improved the quality of ambient air in the station.





# Grants

We applied for two grants during the calendar year of 2002 and received one. One grant request was for \$44,000 to upgrade our four ambulances with new defibrillators with Bi-phasic technology, which allows the operator to have all patient information and data on one screen and includes new and improved noninvasive blood pressure monitoring and improved Pulse Ox symmetry. These new defibrillators would have upgraded our four ambulances to ALS (Advanced Life Support), only three of them are ALS now. This grant would have upgraded our existing two Zoll Monophasic defibrillators to Bi-phasic, replaced an older Marquette defibrillator with a new Bi-phasic defibrillator and added a new one for our fourth ambulance to make it an ALS ambulance. This grant was denied.

The second grant was a “Department of Justice” grant to equip our new Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle with proper and updated equipment. This would include additional and replacement entry suits, decontamination equipment and various other pieces of Haz-Mat response equipment. The grant was approved for \$170,000, to be distributed in three phases. We currently have \$110,000 to spend with a remaining \$60,000 to be distributed this coming year. This will allow us to respond to a chemical emergency more safely and with expanded capabilities.



# Public Education

Fire Department personnel are trained and continue to train in their firefighting skills, so they can safely and effectively extinguish fires as they happen. They also spend a lot of time and energy on educating the public, especially our children, on ways of preventing fires and what to do if they do experience a fire.

It is difficult to track your success in this endeavour, because nobody hears or knows about the fire that “**DIDN’T**” happen, they only hear about the ones that “**DID**”. You don’t hear about the child that was saved because of something they learned about fire safety or fire prevention in school or at the Fire Station, you only hear about the ones that were not saved. We feel confident that over the many years that we have been involved in educating the public on fire prevention and fire safety practices, that we have made a positive impact. Below, are examples of some of the fire prevention and safety programs that we offer and how many citizens have participated in them during the past year.

EVENT	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Fire Station tours	834
Fire Extinguisher classes	26
Fire, Rescue & EMS demonstrations/displays and fire safety instruction	627
First-Aid / CPR Classes	61
Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts (fire safety & first-aid)	30
Fire Prevention Week “ <b>Puppet Shows</b> ”	258
“ <b>JUNIOR FIRE MARSHAL</b> ” Program (5 <sup>th</sup> grade)	219

The Fire Department offers free home fire safety inspections and in cooperation with local Service Clubs, we offer the free use of chimney cleaning equipment to all citizens and free Smoke Detectors for eligible citizens. In partnership with the Board of Public Works, we also offer the “Emergency Light Beacon” program, which provides a free pulsating emergency light for eligible citizens.

# Training

A significant portion of Fire Department personnel's time, on-duty and off-duty, is spent in preparation for emergency responses. For the safety of the citizens they serve and for their own safety, it is imperative that Department members maintain their proficiency in handling emergency operations. We also are required to comply with mandated Federal and State requirements regarding employee training and continuing education. We average over 200 hours of training per employee per year. This equates to approximately 5,000 hours of department training annually. Members also devote many hours per month for physical fitness training to help keep them physically fit to perform the rigorous activities of fire fighting and handling other emergency situations.

## **EXAMPLES OF DEPARTMENT TRAINING**

- Computer training
- Confined-space rescue
- CPR certification
- Disaster preparedness
- Emergency driving
- Emergency response to terrorism
- EMT certification
- Fire apparatus familiarization
- Fire/EMS equipment training
- Hazardous materials
- Incident-command/Scene management
- Infectious control/communicable disease
- Interior attack/live fires
- Paramedic certification
- Pediatric emergencies
- Positive pressure ventilation
- Records management
- Rescue and extrication training

# Hazardous Materials

The Beatrice Fire Department continues to provide a high level of emergency hazardous materials response. Captain Brian Daake serves as the Haz-Mat Coordinator and conducts in-house training during the year. Each member of the Department receives the required number of hours of continuing education in hazardous materials response annually. The Department continues to maintain compliance with current mandated Federal and State requirements. This requires a great deal of effort in training and in maintenance of the related equipment.

In 2002 the Department responded to 29 Hazardous Materials incidents, which is the same as last year. This accounted for approximately 5% of fire suppression activities for the year. Leaks and spills of combustible and/or hazardous liquids and gases make up the majority of these responses.

This past year was fairly uneventful, due to the Department's quick and efficient responses to minor incidents, keeping them from becoming larger and more dangerous ones.

We received our new Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle this year and are in the process of customizing it to accommodate our existing equipment as well as new equipment that will be acquired during the coming year. The new equipment purchases will be made possible by a substantial "Department of Justice" grant.





# Apparatus & Building Maintenance

Fire Department personnel spend hundreds of hours each year on vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair. The majority of this time is spent on preventative maintenance for the Department's apparatus and all of the fire, rescue and EMS equipment that is carried on each piece of apparatus. It is imperative that our equipment be ready for the next emergency and that it remains functional.



Fire Department personnel also perform most of the maintenance to our facility. This past year, we installed additional vehicle exhaust systems for another ambulance and for our rescue truck. We also have formed a committee of firefighters to start customizing our new Haz-Mat response vehicle to accommodate the equipment that will be carried on that vehicle.





# Fire Prevention Division

## Inspections & Plans Reviews

OCCUPANCY TYPE	INSPECTIONS	PLANS REVIEWS	HOURS
Places of Assembly	17	4	3.5
Business	45	10	24
Care Homes	8	0	0
Day Care Facilities	20	0	0
Education	11	0	0
Health Care	4	0	0
Industrial	39	9	31
Mercantile	77	3	2
Residential (Family)	7	0	0
Residential (Commercial)	45	1	1
Storage Facilities	5	10	9
Other	20	0	0
	<b>298</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>70.5</b>

**\$2790 collected for plan reviews and State license inspections**

## Summary of Other Activities

ACTIVITY	SESSIONS	HOURS
Misc. Administrative Duties	-----	934.5
Meetings	111	129.5
Juvenile Firesetter Counseling Sessions	2	2
Public Education	5	3
Training	20	120
Fire Suppression	4	7
Fire & Fire Alarm Investigations	7	14
Ambulance Assist	4	4
Fill-in on Shift	17	19
Computer Technical Assistance	151	321

# Comparison Summary of Activity

## 1998-2002

### Fire/Explosion

Type of Situation Found	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Commercial Fire	3	10	4	19	7
Residential Fire	15	17	18	8	20
Fire Outside Structure	1	8	3	2	5
Vehicle Fire	38	13	27	24	17
Tree, Brush, Grass Fire	20	34	41	28	9
Refuse Fire	14	11	10	10	12
Explosion, No Fire	0	0	0	0	0
Outside Spill w/Fire	1	1	0	0	0
Fire/Explosion, Unclassified	2	2	1	4	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>75</b>

### Emergency Medical

Rescue Call	19	24	29	81	31
Emergency Medical Call	92	152	86	134	228
Lock-In	0	0	0	0	0
Extrication	16	12	11	17	25
Rescue Call, Unclassified	60	94	110	2	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>291</b>

### Hazardous Condition

Over-pressure/Rupture	1	1	0	3	2
Gas Rupture	1	0	0	0	5
Hazardous Condition	6	0	3	1	2
Spill/Leak, No Fire	20	18	18	18	10
Explosive/Bomb Removal	1	0	0	0	0
Excessive Heat	2	1	0	0	0
Power Line Down	5	2	2	2	3
Arcing/Electrical Short	5	1	2	3	5
Chemical Emergency	1	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Condition, Unclass.	3	0	0	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>

### Public Service Assist

Type of Situation Found	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Lock-Out	1	0	0	0	0
Service Call	6	16	14	41	31
Smoke/Odor Removal	3	0	1	11	9
Assist Law Enforcement	5	1	6	6	1
Unauthorized Burning	0	1	0	0	0
Cover Assignment	16	10	6	3	0
Service Call, Unclassified	8	7	8	4	11
Good Intent Call	20	19	21	48	21
Smoke Scare	35	35	30	29	8
Animal Rescue	0	0	1	0	0
Controlled Burning	3	4	3	1	1
Vicinity Alarm	2	0	2	5	0
Mistaken For Smoke	3	3	3	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>85</b>

### False Calls

False Call	29	32	39	53	71
Malicious/Mischievous Call	3	1	5	1	2
Bomb Scare, No Bomb	0	0	1	0	0
System Malfunction	22	17	23	27	6
Unintentional Call	53	40	27	49	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>87</b>

### Unclassified Calls

Undetermined/Unclassified	2	6	7	10	1
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### Mutual-Aid

Mutual-Aid Calls				79	66
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<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>634</b>
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# Fire Response Summary

## 1998-2002

STATISTIC	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total Fire	94	96	104	95	75
Total Fire Loss	\$263,463	\$262,210	\$530,082	\$64,005	\$150,350
Total Saved (Value)	\$831,537	\$6,946,366	\$3,743,669	\$2,376,055	\$300,100
Number of Fire Deaths	2	0	0	0	0
Firefighter Injuries	1	3	1	1	0
Civilian Injuries	1	3	3	0	1
Busiest Month	May	Dec.	March	April	January
Busiest Day	Monday	Friday	Wed.	Wed.	Thurs.
Busiest Time	2-2:59 PM	5-5:59 PM	3-3:59 PM	4-4:59 PM	1-1:59 PM
Avg. Response Time	3.38 min.	3.64 min	3.42 min.	3.41 min.	3.38 min.
Mutual-Aid Calls	46	55	61	79	66

## Mutual-Aid Responses

Type of Mutual-Aid Call	Number of Calls
Ambulance Assist	0
Assist Police/Sheriff	1
Controlled Burn	1
Emergency Medical	4
Extrication	5
False Call	0
Fire/Explosion, Not Classified	3
Fire-Outside Structure	1
Good Intent Call	0
Refuse Fire	10
Rescue Call, Unclassified	0
Service Call	2
Smoke Scare	0
Spill/Leak, No Fire	2
Structure Fire	4
Trees, Brush, Grass Fire	22
Type of Situation/Not Classified or Determined	6
Vehicle Fire	5
<b>Total Mutual-Aid Calls</b>	<b>66</b>

# Ambulance Service

## 1998-2002

TYPE OF CALL	NUMBER OF EMS RESPONSES				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Medical	317	466	401	549	241
Trauma	166	179	166	80	328
Vehicular	76	53	61	66	69
Medical/Cardiac	65	83	46	54	224
In-Town Transfers	155	195	151	117	63
Out-Of-Town Transfers	267	374	396	414	416
No Transport-Vehicular	140	93	48	41	64
No Transport-Medical/Trauma	98	129	108	141	113
Standby	29	32	35	26	28
Mutual-Aid				8	28
Other			6	5	16
<b>TOTAL EMS RESPONSES</b>	<b>1313</b>	<b>1604</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>1501</b>	<b>1590</b>
EMERGENCY RESPONSES	810	590	670	727	825
NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSES	505	1015	748	750	723
MISC/OTHER EMS RESPONSES				24	42

\* Most Common Age of Patient ..... 80-89 years of age

\* Busiest Time of Day ..... 1:00-1:59 PM

\* Most Common Reasons for Call ..... 1. Trauma  
 2. Chest Pain  
 3. Respiratory Distress  
 4. Abdominal Pain

Ambulance Financial Report		
January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002		
	2001	2002
Total Billed Out .....	\$328,212	\$474,174
Total Collected .....	\$239,063	\$331,368
Percentage Collected (Annualized) .....	72.80%	69.88%